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Community Development

Since March, CCWS Regional Coordinators have been busy providing training and support to a number of communities, including Bella Coola, Campbell River, Chilliwack, Fort St. John, Invermere, Kitimat, Prince George, Quesnel, Terrace, the Tri-Cities (Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody) and Whistler.

If you need help developing or improving cross-sector coordination in your community, please contact one of our Regional Coordinators.

VAWIR Coordinators Conference Call

Since the Community Leadership Training (CLT) in February 2009, participants have met twice by teleconference call to follow up on the training and discuss their coordination efforts.

On March 26, 2009, eight Violence Against Women in Relationships (VAWIR) coordinators from across BC participated in a teleconference call organized and facilitated by CCWS. Issues discussed included:

- how to start a VAWIR Committee and involve essential people,
- how to bring training to your community,
- the role of the coordinator in resolving conflicts between agencies.

Beverly Coles of Chilliwack Community Services found the experience particularly useful. "It's a wonderful, knowledgeable and responsive resource for policy and process issues," she says.

CCWS is looking to expand the teleconference calls to include CLT "grads" from other years who are working to improve collaboration in their communities. Planning is underway and invitations will be distributed in the fall.

New Training Development Underway

The most recent offering of the three-day Community Leadership Training (CLT) concluded in February 2009. CCWS is now focused on developing follow-up training on collaborative risk identification and safety planning that will build on the CLT material to help workers improve risk identification and engage the system in information sharing and safety planning.

A one-day workshop on safety assessment and planning for social workers, emergency ward staff, health services, schools and other community agencies is also under development.

Visit our online Calendar of Events at www.endingviolence.org/event for an up-to-date listing of training opportunities.

Conference Presentations

The Basics of Working Collaboratively

On April 7, 2009, Morgen Baldwin facilitated a two-hour workshop on the basics of collaboration at the "Dancing in the Light" sexual abuse conference in Bella Coola, on behalf of CCWS. The group's 15 participants came from Anaheim Lake, Bella Bella, Bella Coola and Williams Lake and represented probation, child protection, transition house, youth, school counselling, suicide prevention/intervention and health services.

Increasing Safety for Immigrant, Refugee and Non-Status Women

In June 2009, settlement and anti-violence workers came together at a conference in Kelowna to increase knowledge and share information. CCWS offered a keynote address on understanding gender violence, risk and safety, and timely and effective referrals to anti-violence programs.

Mobilizing Government and Community Through Legal Strategy and Evidence-Based Research

On June 14-16, 2009, CCWS and partners presented a workshop on intersectoral coordination at the First Annual Canadian Conference on the Prevention of Domestic Homicides in London, Ontario. The training used a case study approach to explore the eight critical components described in our *Keeping Women Safe* report.

Changes to RCMP Policy

We are pleased to report that our ongoing work with RCMP "E" Division recently resulted in revisions to the RCMP's Violence in Relationships (VIR) and Protection Order Registry (POR) Policies. The following excerpts are especially pertinent for frontline anti-violence workers across BC.

Notice regarding revisions to the VIR Policy:

- 2.3 *The Deputy Criminal Operations Officer (Contract), "E" Division, is a member of the Community Coordination For Woman's Safety (CCWS) Committee. The CCWS was created to provide assistance to BC communities to develop new models or improve existing models of cross-sector coordination on violence against women. Refer to the CCWS Web Site, www.endingviolence.org/ccws.*

The Safety Issues Protocol (SIP) between CCWS and RCMP "E" Division has been added to the VIR Policy:

- 2.4 *A protocol has been developed between the RCMP (District Commander Level) and CCWS (Regional Coordinators) to resolve any outstanding issues which cannot be resolved at the local (detachment) level. Refer to Appendix 2-4-2 for the CCWS Safety Issues Protocol and "Request for Review of File form".*

District Commander

- 11.1 *When requested by the Community Coordination For Women's Safety (CCWS) Regional Coordinator, conduct a file review. See line 2.3 above.*

Under the POR Policy, Undertakings to Appear (UTAs) have been added to the information required to be sent to the POR:

- 1.4 *Copies of all UTAs (including the Promise to Appear (PTA) or Recognizance) entered into by an accused where there is one or more "no contact" conditions must be immediately forwarded to the POR.*

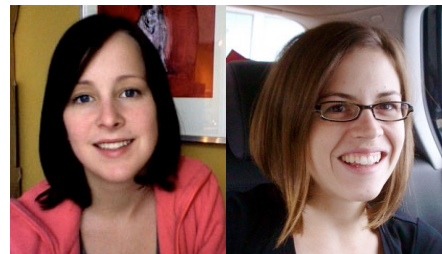
CCWS developed the Safety Issues Protocol (SIP) in collaboration with RCMP "E" Division in 2006 as an alternative way for frontline workers to address concerns about police practice that affects women's safety.

Where can I find it? Workers are encouraged to download and use the SIP Information Bulletin at www.endingviolence.org/publications and to contact one of our Regional Coordinators with any questions.

Provincial Working Group

The Working Group meeting planned for June has been postponed until October due to travel restrictions on government employees. Look for an update in the next CCWS News Bulletin.

Staff Changes



This August, CCWS bids farewell to Stephanie Bennett and Sheena Starky. We wish

Stephanie nothing but clear skies and open road in her cross-country drive to Newfoundland and Sheena nothing but the best in her future endeavors.



Tory Pearson, who recently joined CCWS in the role of Administrative Assistant, is an organizational dervish who brings years of administrative experience in green politics.

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